

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-23 are allowed.

The prior art references do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 15, Ogawa et al discloses a honeycomb structure comprising: a cell structural part including a plurality of cells partitioned by partition walls in a honeycomb shape to form flow paths allowing a fluid to flow therein; and an outer wall disposed on an outer peripheral surface of the cell structural part (see figures 1-4)

Ogawa et al does not disclose or suggest a honeycomb structure characterized in that an outermost peripheral cell positioned in an outermost periphery of the cell structural part and a predetermined number of cells (outer peripheral cells) positioned in an inner direction from the outermost peripheral cell among the cells are sealed by an inner peripheral surface of the outer wall in an end portion and/or an intermediate portion of at least one of the outermost peripheral cell and the outer peripheral cell in a central axis direction to form shielded cells which prevent the fluid from flowing.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NATASHA YOUNG whose telephone number is 571-270-3163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am-6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1447. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1797

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/N. Y./

Examiner, Art Unit 1797

/Walter D. Griffin/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1797